

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 26 have been amended. Claims 5 and 15 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11 and 16-26 are presented for examination.

Claim 26 stands objected to because of an informality. Applicant submits that claim 26 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 19-25, 27 and 28, that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the above objection and that claims 5-10, 15, 17, 18 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claims.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lewchuk (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,363). Further, claims 11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewchuk in view of Tremblay et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,338). Applicant submits that the above rejections have been obviated by the amendment of claims 1 and 11 to include the allowable features of claims 5 and 15, respectively.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our

Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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